



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

October 5, 2006

Dear International Food Relief Partners:

I would like to provide you with an update on the P.L. 480 Title II International Food Relief Partnership (IFRP) program.

Since its inception in the 2000 Farm Bill, the IFRP program has become an increasingly successful and popular mechanism for enabling smaller American organizations to become involved in the production and distribution of prepackaged food commodities for international food assistance programs. To date, the program has successfully introduced over 30 new partners to the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in implementing humanitarian food aid relief and assistance on a global scale. We are now providing, through the IFRP program, more than double the \$3 million mandated by Title II legislation.

As a result of the overall growth and success of the program, USAID received a record number of applications for distribution grants in Fiscal Year 2006. To address the need to rapidly review and process the applications, we have shifted personnel to increase staff time devoted to the program, and are working to develop new and improved procedures for distribution grants to make proposal reviews, funding decisions, and processing quicker and more predictable.

Under the new procedures, we anticipate establishing a date, or dates, each year when USAID will review new applications for funding, as well as a date, or dates, when applicants can expect a response from our office. This will provide greater predictability to the process. We intend to implement the new procedures for Fiscal Year 2007 grant applications for new funding. We will provide information on the review date(s) for application submissions when it is available. Any new procedures will not be implemented before January 1, 2007 in order to allow an opportunity for consultation. Given these changes, we recommend that organizations wait for the new procedures before drafting and submitting proposals for new funding in 2007.

As we develop these new procedures, we will consult closely with partners and provide updates via e-mail and on our website (http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/humanitarian_assistance/ffp/). If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Benjamin Vogler at 202-712-1827 (bvogler@usaid.gov) or Ms. Bobbi Kraham at 202-712-1809 (bkraham@usaid.gov).

Sincerely,

William P. Hammink
Director, Office of Food for Peace